



**Urban District Council of
Oswaldtwistle**



ANNUAL REPORTS

1967

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and of the

**Chief Public Health Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent**

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Health Committee

From May, 1967 to April, 1968.



Councillor L. SCHOLES, Chairman

- „ J. ASPINALL,
- „ W. FINCH, C.C.
- „ W. FRANKLAND
- „ J. K. HARGREAVES
- „ J. W. HILL, J.P.
- „ W. HOLDEN
- „ H. HOWARTH
- „ T. LOMAX
- „ A. NEWSHAM
- „ R. P. OWEN
- „ F. PONTEFRACT, J.P.
- „ J. STELL, J.P.
- „ A. R. STONHAM
- „ C. WALSH

Health Department

Medical Officer of Health:

R. C. WEBSTER, T.D., B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

B. MAYERS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy to Chief Public Health Inspector:

VACANCY

Clerk to the Health Department MRS. A. M. BURNETT

TOWN HALL,

OSWALDTWISTLE.

August, 1968.

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District of Oswaldtwistle.**

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of Oswaldtwistle for the year ending December 31st, 1967.

The various rates in this report are based upon the Registrar General's estimate of the population for the mid-year 1967.

The population again shows an increase for the eighth year in succession. The estimated mid-year population is given as 13,120 which is the highest it has been for over 30 years. Private housing schemes are stilling expanding and it is anticipated that the rate of increase will continue.

The adjusted Death Rate of 13.7 is lower than last year but remains higher than the rate for the whole country which was 11.2.

The death rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory system was 0.08 per 1,000 population.

The Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total births was Nil.

The Birth Rate is again slightly lower than last year being 21.2 per 1,000 as compared with 21.4 per 1,000 in 1966. The rate for England and Wales for 1967 is 17.2 per 1,000. This is the fourth year that the birth rate in Oswaldtwistle has exceeded the figure for England and Wales.

The infant mortality rate of 12 per 1,000 live births is a decrease of 19.5 per 1,000 on that for 1966 but the stillbirth rate of 27 per 1,000 total births is an increase of 19.2 and to obtain a balanced view these figures should be taken together if comparisons are to be made with previous years.

The national figures for infant mortality and stillbirths are 18.3 per 1,000 live births and 14.8 per 1,000 total births respectively.

The incidence of infectious diseases was generally low and for the twenty-second year in succession no cases of diphtheria were notified.

Sections A and B of the Report deal with Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area and General Provisions of Health Service for the Area.

The report on the Water Supply and Sewage Disposal is discussed in Section C together with the report on the Sanitary circumstances in the area. The Housing Report is in Section D, Inspection and Supervision of Food in Section E and the report on the Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases in Section F.

Appendix 1 gives details of the inspections made under the Factories Act, 1961 and Appendix 2 deals with the Public Cleansing Services.

I would like to thank the Engineer and Manager of the Calder Water Board who has kindly supplied most of the information and statistics for the section dealing with the Water Supply.

I am also indebted to the Public Health Inspector and the Clerk of the Health Department for their help during the year.

Finally, my thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, the Clerk of the Council, the Accountant, Surveyor and other officials for their assistance to me in the work of the Department.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. C. WEBSTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.
STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF
THE AREA.

Area in Acres	4,885
Population (Census, 1961)	11,910
„ (Estimated middle 1967)	13,120
Number of inhabited houses (according to Rate Book at the end of 1967)	5,170
Rateable Value	£346,976
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£1,366

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND CHIEF INDUSTRIES
IN THE AREA.

The occupations of the inhabitants of the township remain similar to those of previous years, namely, cotton spinning and weaving and chemical manufacturing. Some of the male population find employment in an adjoining area in textile machinery works.

The main occupation of female labour is in the cotton industry.

A large part of the area is farmed—mainly dairy farming.

No particular occupation has been noted to have any special influence on the public health.

The population according to the Census of—

1801	was	2710
1851	..	7554
1871	„	10282
1891	„	13296
1911	„	15714
1931	„	14221
1951	„	12133
1961	„	11910

Houses Inhabited

1901	...	3067
1921	...	3676
1951	...	4269
1964	...	4916
1965	...	5056
1966	...	5150
1967	...	5170

Houses Uninhabited

1901	...	297
1921	...	40
1951	...	—
1964	...	25
1965	...	25
1966	...	22
1967	...	22

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	}	Legitimate	...	237	141	96	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 19.3†
		Illegitimate	...	16	8	8	
		Total	...	253	149	104	
Still Births		7	4	3	Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still birth) Births 27
Deaths		181	96	85	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated res. population 13.8*

	Per 1,000 of Population (Adj.)			Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality Rate	
	Live Birth-rate	Death-rate	Still births Per 1,000,	Rate Per 1,000	Total Births	Total Rate Per 1,000	Neo-natal rate per 1,000
			Total			Live Births	Live Births
Population, 13,120							
1965	22.3	12.8	15.2	Nil	Nil	7.7	3.9
1966	21.4	14.8	7.8	3.91	31.5	31.5	27.6
1967	21.2	13.7	27.0	Nil	Nil	12.0	4.0
Increase or decrease in 1967 on previous year	—0.2	+1.1	+19.2	—3.91	—19.5	—19.5	—23.6
England and Wales	17.2	11.2	14.8	0.20	18.3	18.3	12.5

* 1967 Adjusted Death-rate (comparability factor 0.99)=13.7 per 1,000

† 1967 Adjusted Birth-rate (comparability factor 1.10=21.2 per 1,000

CAUSES OF DEATH		M.	F.	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	0	1
2	Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
3	Syphilitic Disease	0	0	0
4	Diphtheria	0	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	0	0	0
6	Meningococcal infections	0	1	1
7	Acute poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8	Measles	0	0	0
9	Other infective & parasitic diseases	1	0	1
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	4	1	5
11	" " lung,			
	bronchus	4	1	5
12	" " breast	0	5	5
13	" " uterus	0	1	1
14	Other malignant & lymphatic			
	neoplasms	9	8	17
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	0	1
16	Diabetes	0	0	0
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	13	20
18	Coronary disease, angina	30	15	45
19	Hypertension with heart disease...	1	2	3
20	Other heart disease	14	10	24
21	Other circulatory disease	3	5	8
22	Influenza	1	0	1
23	Pneumonia	4	6	10
24	Bronchitis	6	2	8
25	Other diseases, respiratory system	0	1	1
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum...	0	0	0
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1	2
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	0	1	1
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	0	1
30	Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	0	0	0
31	Congenital Malformations	1	0	1
32	Other defined & ill-defined diseases	3	8	11
33	Motor vehicle accident	0	0	0
34	All other accidents	3	3	6
35	Suicide	1	1	2
36	Homicide and operations of war...	0	0	0
TOTAL		96	85	181

Death under one year: Legitimate ...	2	1	3
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Deaths under 4 weeks: Legitimate	1	0	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Deaths under 1 week: Legitimate	1	0	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Council:

Medical Officer of Health, R. C. Webster, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H.,
D.C.H. Part time Officer. Salary contributed to.

Chief Public Health Inspector, B. Mayers, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Whole time officer.

Deputy to Chief Public Health Inspector,
Position vacant.

Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Preston, with the exception of sputum examination for Tuberculosis, these being examined at the Chest Clinic, Blackburn Royal Infirmary.

Chemical analysis is carried out when required by the Public Analyst, Burnley.

The following specimens were submitted for examination:—

Milk for Methylene Blue and B. Coli	0
„ Phosphatase Test	0
„ Brucella Test	242
„ Turbidity Test	0
Water for bacteria	20
„ Chemical Analysis	0

Ambulance Service.

The ambulance service is operated by the Lancashire County Council from Station No. 2, No. 5 Health Division, at Accrington.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) GENERAL NURSING.—Carried out by 2 District Nurses under the Lancashire County Council.

(b) FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—The nursing of such cases as measles, pneumonia, and puerperal sepsis, is carried out by the District Nurses.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES. Maternity and Child Welfare.

	Situation	Accommod't'n	By whom provid	
Chief Centre	Barnfield, Union Road, Oswaldtwistle.	Ample	Owned by the County Council	Meetings & Consultations every Tuesday and Friday afternoons. Ante-natal Clinic, Tuesday a.m.

OTHER CLINICS.

Day Nurseries		None		
School Clinics	Barnfield, Oswaldtwistle	Eye, Ear and Dent'l & Minor Ailm'ts Clinics	County Council	Polio vaccination and immu- nisations—Monthly by appointment.
Tuberculosis	Chest Clinic, Blackburn Royal Infirm'y		Reg. Hospital Board	
Venereal Diseases	Blackburn Royal Infirm'y	At Out-patients Department	Reg. Hospital Board	Twice a week for males and twice a week for females.
Orthopaedic Clinic	Rishton		County Council	
Chiropody Clinic for the elderly		Barnfield, Oswaldtwistle	5 Sessions weekly, by appointment	

Hospitals.

(1) Tuberculosis Provided by the Regional Hospital Board.

(2) Maternity }
(3) Children } None.

(4) Infectious Diseases ... Cases are sent to Blackburn Hospital when difficulty in isolating at home arises.

(5) Other Hospitals available for the District:—

Blackburn Royal Infirmary.

Accrington Victoria Hospital.

Queen's Park Hospital, Blackburn.

Manchester Royal Infirmary.

Bull Hill, Darwen—Maternity.

Bramley Meade, Whalley—Maternity.

Accrington Municipal Maternity Home.

Midwives.

There is one resident midwife, and others residing in adjoining districts cover part of the township. Domiciliary mid-wifery appears to be adequate, although hospital accommodation is limited. This service is under the control of the County Council.

Report
of the
Chief Public Health Inspector

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration my fifth annual report which covers the work of the Department during 1967.

Regular advertising again failed to find an additional Public Health Inspector willing to work in Oswaldtwistle and consequently this meant that once more some of the routine work of the Department did not receive adequate attention.

Comments are made elsewhere in the report on varying aspects of the work and together with the statistics I hope I have been able to give some sort of picture of the work of the Department during an eventful twelve months.

Attention must be drawn to the section on Housing. It was particularly pleasing to me to have the Union Road (No. 1) Compulsory Purchase Order confirmed by the Ministry. Modifications were made to the classification of four properties but considering the extent and strength of the opposition to the Clearance Programme generally, it is felt that the Confirmation of the Order is sufficient justification to continue with the Programme. The standard of Housing accommodation in Oswaldtwistle is not high but to raise this standard after its acceptance for so long is an extremely difficult task. I cannot accept that two-up, two-down cottages, many with rising dampness, waste water closets and without hot water and bathrooms, are suitable housing conditions for 1968. Much work has to be done however to convince occupiers that for ten to fifteen shillings a week they cannot expect to be living in modern dwellings.

For yet another year, work on smoke control was just not possible. Smoke Control will have to come however and, judging from comments received in the office, many of the townspeople want cleaner air and look forward to the implementation of this part of the Clean Air Act.

Discussions in the Council chamber on the problem of Brucellosis in raw milk received quite a lot of publicity in the local press and this, whilst naturally disturbing the conscientious farmer, no doubt made the public aware of the dangers from this organism.

Unfortunately, it would appear that certain farmers are not prepared to take adequate steps to protect their raw milk supply. The majority of producer-retailers normally have some surplus milk and if adequate steps were taken there is no reason at all for raw milk containing the brucella organism to be sold on the street.

One or two important steps were taken during the year to improve the refuse collection services. One was the introduction of Municipal Dustbin Scheme, details of which are given in the Cleansing Section.

Following the publication of the Report for the Working Party on refuse collection, charges for extra collections of household refuse were dropped. All household refuse including furniture, prams, washing machines, mattresses and other such like objects which can be seen decorating verges and hedges round the countryside, are now removed from houses free of charge.

A further recommendation of the Working Party, namely that a collection of house refuse should be made weekly at least, was implemented during 1967. For the first time, 52 collections of household refuse were made. Previously during the Annual Holiday fortnight only one collection was made. For residents at home during this period this meant inconvenience as most family bins will not contain two weeks household refuse.

Finally, my thanks are again due to my Clerk, Mrs. A. M. Burnett, for her work in keeping the office books and records straight, the Foreman of the Department, Mr. E. Ingham for the day-to-day supervision of the cleansing services, the outside staff of the Department, and colleagues in other Departments of the Council for their assistance and co-operation and to the Chairman and all Members of the Committee for their interest and support during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours respectfully,

B. MAYERS,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The water authority for the District is the Calder Water Board which came into being on the 1st April, 1963.

Water is supplied to Oswaldtwistle from the following sources.

1. Jackhouse Reservoir (capacity 58 million gallons) provides approximately 200,000 gallons per day as a low level supply to the district in the vicinity of Union Road.
2. Cocker Cobbs Reservoir (capacity 11 million gallons) provides approximately 400,000 gallons per day as a high level supply to Stanhill, Knuzden and Broadfield. In addition treated water from Jackhouse Reservoir can be pumped at Town Bent to Cocker Cobbs Reservoir should this reservoir be depleted in dry weather.
3. Sharn Hall Treatment Works at Church supplies properties immediately adjacent to the district boundary and this supply can be extended into the district supplied from Jackhouse should this be required.
4. A bulk supply of treated water is taken on the district boundary at Guide from the Fylde Water Board and is pumped to the village of Belthorn.

* * *

Samples of water are regularly taken by the Calder Water Board throughout the area and these have been satisfactory.

The samples taken by the Department from the mains have also been satisfactory but several from private supplies were not up to standard. Included in these were samples from an Inn. The source of this supply was checked and work was quickly put in hand by the brewery company concerned to protect their supply from contamination. Samples taken after the work was completed were found to be satisfactory.

It is pleasing to note that approval was given during the year by the Lancashire County Council and by the Ministry for the provision of mains water supply to the Cross Edge Area of the District.

It is hoped that the work will be completed during 1968 and approximately 38 properties, including two dairy farms, one poultry farm and a Public House, should benefit from this new supply.

The existing well water has given rise to concern for many years and must be considered a potential hazard.

During September, complaints were received from an area of the town of "dirty water." These probably arose due to the amount of work being carried out on the mains by the Calder Water Board to remedy the great many repairs and replacements necessary in Oswaldtwistle. Until the work of improvement has been completed it would seem that occasional disturbances, and the resulting complaints, will continue.

Plumbo-Solvency.

The water from the Jackhouse and Cocker Cobbs Reservoirs is liable to plumbo-solvency due to the acid nature of the gathering grounds. A temporary lime-injection plant has been installed at each reservoir and this is generally maintaining a quality which ensures that the lead content in the distribution system is less than 0.05 p.p.m.

Separate Services.

It is again disappointing to note that very few consumers have taken advantage of the Council's decision to provide a grant under Section 96 of the Housing Act, 1964, for the provision of a separate service. Only 13 grants were paid despite the maximum grant being increased to £20.

Water Sampling.

Public Supply — Bacteriological.

	No. taken	Results	
		Satisfactory	Unsatis.
By L.A.	12	11	1
By Water Board	96	95	1

Public Supply — Chemical

	No. taken	Results	
		Satisfactory	Unsatis.
By L.A.	0	0	0
By Water Board	12	12	0

Private Supplies — Bacteriological

	No. taken	Results	
		Satisfactory	Unsatis.
By L.A.	7	3	4
No. of dwelling-houses supplied from public water mains direct to houses			
			5,057
No. of inhabitants in these houses			12,890

There are no houses supplied from the public water mains by means of standpipes.

There are approximately 126 houses on private water supplies, the number of inhabitants of these houses being 230.

Fluoride Content:— Jackhouse Reservoir 0.15 p.p.m.
Cocker Cobbs Reservoir... 0.15 p.p.m.

Rainfall 1967.

January	4.07	September	8.21
February	6.87	October	11.32
March	3.21	November	5.17
April	1.84	December	4.65
May	7.14		
June	4.02		—
July	3.82	Total	67.71
August	7.39		—

For comparison, the total rainfall in 1966 was 57.67 inches.

Drainage and Sewerage.

During the year the new private housing development continued and 85 dwellings were connected to the Council's sewerage system.

The sewerage is treated at the Council's Aspen Sewage Works which is of modern design, and the treatment is biological.

The village of Belthorn has a separate sewage disposal works on the same principle, and the Knuzden and Peel Fold sewage, which was also extended during the year, is dealt with by arrangement with the Blackburn County Borough.

The districts of Cross Edge and Duckworth Hall are without a proper sewerage system but investigations are being made to ascertain whether a scheme would be possible for the Cross Edge Area.

Assistance is given to householders and farmers in the rural areas in emptying their septic tanks. Quite a number of these are now in operation in place of pail closets.

Rivers and Streams.

There are two main streams flowing through the district, the Tinker and Smithy Brooks.

Both these streams are frequently misused due to old prams, bicycles and similar items being deposited therein and it would seem there is also evidence of other pollution on occasions.

Shops Act, 1950.

Shops were inspected under the above Act. There were no contraventions as regards ventilation and temperature or sanitary accommodation.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

One licence for a single caravan, and one licence for a maximum of 20 caravans at one site, were issued. The latter site is used by travelling salesmen who station their vans thereon for varying periods. Sanitary conditions are reasonable at the sites.

Some time was again spent in dealing with unauthorised caravan settlements but fortunately the majority of these people, if allowed to stay for short stops, were quite prepared to move willingly and very little trouble was caused during the year.

Clean Air Act, 1956.

Thirteen observations were made during the year.

The co-operation of industrialists has again been satisfactory, and the problem of smoke emission from industrial premises within the district is no longer a major one.

Occasional trouble arises from a large chemical manufacturing plant but the co-operation between this firm, the Alkali Works Inspector, and the Council is good and at such times every effort is made to keep the nuisance to a minimum.

Work is being carried out at the plant to try to reduce the occasional emissions and several meetings were held during the year to discuss progress.

Smoke Control Areas.

As it was not possible to obtain the services of an additional Public Health Inspector, the question of implementing the programme, originally submitted in 1963 and reconsidered in 1966, was not discussed.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

Only a few visits were made during 1967, this being one aspect of the work of the Department which has again unfortunately suffered due to the shortage of staff. Even so, some improvements were effected in the working conditions of persons employed in premises covered by the Act and it is hoped that as soon as the services of an Assistant Public Health Inspector are obtained all premises will receive a regular inspection.

Registrations and General Inspections.

Class of Premises	No. of Premises registered during the year	Total No. of Registered Premises at end of year	No. of inspections of Registered premises
Offices	0	20	3
Retail Shops	2	57	12
Wholesale shops, Warehouses ...	0	2	0
Catering establ. and Canteens ..	0	10	2
Fuel Storage Depots	0	0	0

Number of visits of all kinds to Registered Premises, 56

Persons employed in Registered Premises.

Class of Workplace	No. of Persons Employed
Offices	64
Retail Shops	126
Wholesale departments, warehouses	11
Catering establishments	22
Canteens	13
Fuel Storage Depots	0
Total	236

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths or pools within the district.

Schools.

These are adequately dealt with by the School Medical Officer of the Lancashire County Council.

Routine inspection of school children is carried out by the School Medical Officer of Health, and when necessary by the District Medical Officer of Health. The School M.O.H. and District M.O.H. co-operate with regard to school closure in the prevention of the spread of infectious disease. Contacts of infectious disease are excluded from school.

Storage of Petroleum Spirit.

During 1967, two new licences were issued, one in respect of a new petrol filling station, and one in respect of a tank for a private company.

Licences were issued to 36 premises to store a total of 66,550 gallons in tanks and 90 gallons in cans.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act.

One Establishment is licensed under the Act for the boarding of 45 dogs and 12 cats.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964.

7 persons are registered as scrap metal dealers.

Sanitary Inspections during 1967.

No. of premises visited	1,612
Defects or nuisances discovered	406
Defects or nuisances abated ...	334
No. of notices served:—	
(a) Informal	362
(b) Statutory	2

Classification of Visits:

Housing—Public Health Act (Primary Inspections) or Housing Acts	721
„ (Re-inspections)	93
Drainage	37
Factories	23
Dairies	35
Cafes, etc.	18
Food Shops	36
Bakehouses	20
Licensed Premises	23
Tips	82
Miscellaneous	49
Shops	48
Offices	26
Rodent Control	20
Smoke Abatement	20

Food Inspection	6
Public Cleansing Visits	297
Milk Samples	242
Water Sampling	19
Water Supplies	40
Conversions of W.W.C.'s to W.C.'s	0
Conversions of Pails to W.C.s'	0
Petroleum Acts	37
Infectious Diseases	35
Caravans	51
Schools	2
Miscellaneous	49
Standard Grants	69
Animal Boarding Establishment	1
Noise Nuisances	2
Farms	9

Nuisances and Defects Discovered and Abated.

	Discovered	Abated
Defective roofs	8	3
Eavesgutters	9	0
Defective Ceiling plaster	10	3
„ wall plaster	8	3
„ refuse bins	116	116
Choked closet drains	153	149
Choked yard drains	144	145
Defective Chimneys and flues	2	0
„ W.C.'s	4	6
„ Sinks	1	0
„ window frames	8	5
„ fireplaces	1	2
„ doors	4	1
„ yard drains	1	0
„ rainwater pipes	7	1
„ wall	1	0
Dampness	12	3
Accumulations	4	6

Closet Accommodation.

It is again disappointing to report that during the year only 17 waste water closets were converted, this being less than in 1965.

At the present slow rate of progress it is going to be very many years before we see the last of these undesirable and insanitary fittings. It would seem that the present grant of £10 is not a sufficient incentive to owners to have a modern water closet installed.

The majority of the closet drains reported to the Department as being choked are found to be waste water closets and much time and effort is spent by the operator in trying to clear these blockages. Toys, bricks, milk bottles and pieces of coal are frequently recovered by the workmen from the shafts of the closets, these usually having been dropped there by children.

Apart from the waste water closets, many pail closets are still in use and the gully emptying machine, fitted with a special tank is fully occupied one day per week emptying these receptacles—a dirty and obnoxious job. Efforts are made to persuade owners to install septic tanks where possible but once again, at the present rate of progress, this machine is going to be occupied on this work for a good many years.

Closet Accomodation at end of 1967.

A count was made of the pail closets still in use and it appears that there are slightly fewer than had been anticipated but still far too many.

No. of pail closets	172
No. of moveable ashbins for refuse	5915
No. of fresh water closets	4242
No. of waste water closets	1343

Conversions.

	During the ... year 1967
No. of pail closets to fresh water closets	0
No. of waste water closets to fresh water closets	17

Rodent Control—Prevention of damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Treatments are carried out in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Agriculture, and below are indicated the number of treatments carried out during the year, involving 760 visits.

During the year, fluoracetamide was again used for the treatment of the sewers.

I am satisfied that this form of direct poisoning has proved very effective in the treatment of rats in sewers.

As well as the sewer treatment, all surface complaints are dealt with by the Rodent Operator.

Infestation Treatments.

	Private Premises	Business Premises
Rats		
Number of Treatments	129	25
Mice		
Number of Treatments	16	4

Sewer Treatments	
Number of manholes on system	553
Number of manholes treated	237

Chief Sanitary Requirements of District.

The necessity for securing the repair or demolition of unfit houses and improving the general standard of housing accommodation throughout the district.

Complete the conversion of waste water closets and pail closets wherever practicable.

Abatement of atmospheric pollution particularly from domestic premises.

Provision of main's water and sewerage to rural areas.

SECTION D—HOUSING

Work of implementing the programme for the clearance of unfit dwellings continued throughout 1967 but, as in other spheres of work, progress was not as fast as we had anticipated due to the staff vacancy in the Department.

1967 saw the confirmation of the first section of the programme approved by the Council in 1966. A Local Public Inquiry was held in February, 1967 to hear objectors to the Union Road (No. 1) Compulsory Purchase Order. The area contained 34 dwellings and objections were received from many of the owners and owner/occupiers and from certain tenants who were persuaded to object. The opposition was expected as this was the first major attempt by the Authority to deal with the housing problem and, as with any new schemes or ideas, the objectors were very vociferous.

It is apparent however that much work will have to be done both in clearance and improvement if the low housing standards in the District are to be improved. Considerable time still has to be spent in trying to persuade landlords to carry out even basic repairs and the tenanted properties which have received Standard Improvement Grants must be very few in number.

The first of a number of Old People's dwellings, with a resident warden living in adjoining accommodation, were completed and occupied during 1967. Among the first tenants were elderly persons from the Union Road (No.1) area who very quickly settled down in their new homes.

It was particularly pleasing to hear persons who had objected to moving from the clearance area say how pleased they were with the Council accommodation and how they wished they had had the opportunity to live in modern homes sooner. There is still a need for modern rented accommodation as it is becoming more apparent that some persons, particularly the elderly, are owner/occupiers from necessity and not from choice.

Housing Statistics for the year 1967.

Number of new houses erected during the year—

	Houses	Flats
(1) By Local Authority	16 ...	0
(2) By other Local Authorities...	0 ...	0
(3) By other persons	71 ...	0
Total No. of dwellings owned by L. Authority		346

I—Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:

- 1. (a) Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 40
- (b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose 40
- 2. Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit in respect of which:
 - (a) Dem., Clear., or Closing Orders have been made ... 40
 - (b) No. (or estimated number) of other unfit houses at end of year 516
- 3. No. of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit 32

II—Clearance Areas.

- 1. No. of dwelling-houses demolished during the year:
 - (a) Unfit houses 8
 - (b) Other houses 0
- 2. No. of persons displaced 6

III—Houses not included in Clearance Areas.

1. Houses demolished or closed during year:

	No. of:-	
	Houses	Persons Displaced
(a) Housing Act, 1957:		
(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Sec. 17(i))	0	0
(ii) Unfit houses closed under Sec. 16 (4), 17(1) & 35(1) of the Housing Act, 1957	1	2
(iii) Unfit houses closed under Sec. 17(3) and 26 of the Housing Act, 1957	0	0
(iv) Parts of Buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957 ...	0	0

2. Repairs during the year:

	No. of houses
(a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts	30
(b) Public Health Acts — action after service of formal notice — Houses in which defects were remedied:—	
(i) By Owners	1
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners...	0
(c) Housing Act, 1957 — action after service of formal notice (Sections 9 and 16): Houses made fit:—	
(i) By Owners	0
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners...	0

IV—Unfit houses in temporary use—Housing Act, 1957:

1. No. of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation under Sect. 48 and Sect. 17(a)	0
2. No. of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 34 or 53)	0

Purchase of Houses by Agreement:

	No. of Houses	No. of Occupiers
Houses in Clearance areas other than those in confirmed orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders	14	9

Rent Act, 1957.

No certificates of Disrepair were issued during the year and no certificates were cancelled.

Standard Grants:—

Applications received	52
Applications approved	48
Works completed	60

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

The milk produced or brought into the district is on the whole of good quality.

Regular sampling is carried out by the Lancashire County Sanitary Officers who also visit the large pasteurising plant in the district.

Brucellosis.

The routine of tracing individual cows secreting the brucella organism into raw milk continued throughout the year.

242 individual cow samples were taken, as a result of which 16 cows were identified as being positive carriers of the brucella organisms.

The owners of these animals were requested to send them for slaughter and this was probably done in many instances. Unfortunately it is still possible that some of these positive carriers have been sold into other milk producing herds.

Difficulty is also experienced with certain farms due to the constant turnover in stock. Animals are being bought and sold week by week and it is almost impossible to keep a firm check on the milk from such farms.

Samples from individual cows which had recently calved were accepted from farmers and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for testing. Very few farmers used this service however, although quite a number had their animals tested by their Veterinary Officers.

During the year, one Pasteurisation Order was served under Regulation 20 of the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959.

Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.), Regulations.

There are 70 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream.

Two of these premises are also registered for the manufacture of ice-cream.

Twenty-four routine inspections were made in connection with these registered premises.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

The following table shows the number of premises on the register at the end of the year:—

Preparation rooms, butchers' shops, etc. ...	12
Bakehouses	22
Ice-Cream premises	70

103 visits were made to food premises.

Number of food premises, by type of business, in district at end of year.

Greengrocers and fruiterers (inc. wet fish, game, etc.)	16
General grocers and provision dealers	63
Fishmongers (inc. poultry, game, etc.)	1
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and pre-served meat, etc.)	16
Bakers and/or confectioners	22
Fried fish shops	11
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc.	29
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars, etc.	65
Others	3

Food and Drugs Sampling.

Regular sampling of Food and Drugs was carried out by the County Public Health Inspectors and a total of 119 samples was obtained in the District, comprising 96 milks and 23 other samples as follows:—

- 1 Milk Shake
- 3 Sweets
- 3 Ice Cream
- 1 Lard
- 1 Ground Ginger
- 1 Syrup of Figs
- 1 Cough Medicine
- 1 Canned Tomatoes
- 1 Semolina
- 1 Fish Cakes
- 1 Fish, Canned
- 1 Aspirin Tablets, B.P.
- 2 Table Jelly
- 1 Gin
- 1 Rum
- 1 Bicarbonate of Soda, B.P.
- 1 Double Cream
- 1 Baking Powder

I give below details of these samples upon which the County Analyst gave adverse reports :

Type of Sample	Result of Analysis	Action Taken
Milk, Formal	Fat 2.35% Deficient 21.6.	Farmer and Milk Production Officer informed.
Milk Shake Syrup	Labelled “Contents— sodium cyclamate and super sweetening. Citric Acid, flavour colour, Benzoic Acid.”	Manufacturer communicated with.

The declaration of
sweetening agents not
in any of the forms
specified in the Soft
Drink Regulations and
sugar present in greatest
amount and yet stated
second in list of
ingredients.

Foods Condemned:—

Powdered Milk	56 lbs.
Meat	5½ lbs.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever.

No cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year.

Diphtheria.

No cases were notified for the twenty-second year in succession. Immunisation of children is carried out by the Lancashire County Council at their Barnfield House Clinic.

Enteric (including Paratyphoid) Fever.

No cases were notified in 1967.

Measles, Whooping Cough, Chicken-pox, etc.

There were 31 cases of Measles notified during the year.

Dysentery.

Eighteen cases were notified.

Food Poisoning.

Two cases were notified.

Small-pox.

No cases of small-pox occurred during the year, and no action was necessary under the Small-pox Prevention Regulations.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

No cases were notified.

Public Health (Infectious Disease) Regulations.

No cases of acute primary or acute influenzal pneumonia were notified during the year.

Poliomyelitis.

There were no cases of acute Poliomyelitis (paralytic) notified during the year.

SECTION F.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

Disease	Total Under										Total age over unkn'n Deaths
	cases notified	1 yr.	1-3 yrs.	3-5 yrs.	5-10 yrs.	10-15 yrs.	15-25 yrs.	25-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	65 & over	
Scarlet Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis (Res.)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
" Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	31	1	9	4	13	0	0	1	0	0	3
Dysentery	18	1	5	3	4	0	0	3	0	0	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute Pneumonia (PPrimary & Influenzal)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelities (Paralytic)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food Poisoning	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	53	2	14	8	17	0	1	5	1	0	5

Prevention of Blindness.

No action necessary during the year.

Cancer.

There were 33 deaths from Cancer during the year.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1967.

Age periods years	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2-5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20-25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-35	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35-45	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
45-55	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55-65	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 upwds.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	3		0		0		0	

Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952.

No. of cases of Tuberculosis remaining on the notification Register on 31st December, 1967:—

Total Cases	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
8	4	3	7	0	1	1

APPENDIX I.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	No. on Reg.	Inspections	Written Notices
(i) Factories under Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6	15	17	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) above in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	79	4	1
(iii) Other Premises	6	2	0
Total ...	100	23	1

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Sanitary Conveniences:—

Particulars	Found	Remedied
(a) Insufficient	1	0
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	0	0
(c) Not separate for sexes...	0	0
(d) Other offences	0	0
Total ...	1	0

4. Outwork. Sections 133 and 134.

No. of Outworkers Nil

APPENDIX II.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION & STREET CLEANSING

1st April, 1967 to 31st March, 1968.

Public Cleansing.

The Public Health Department is responsible for the collection and disposal of household refuse and also collects and disposes of certain trade refuse.

A weekly service is provided for the emptying of all dustbins and, in addition, the weekly emptying of pail closets from areas of the District where sewers are not available.

Street scavenging, gully emptying and the cleansing and maintenance, of the four public conveniences within the District are also included in the Public Cleansing Services.

The vehicles in use are as follows:—

Two Dennis/Shefflex “fore and aft” refuse collection vehicles.

One Dennis side-loading refuse collection vehicle.

One Dennis gully/cesspool emptier.

One Lewin mechanical street-sweeper.

One Massey-Ferguson heavy tractor for use on the tip.

One Austin A35 van.

Collection of Refuse.

Following bank holiday breaks, i.e. Christmas, Easter, etc., a weekly collection was maintained and a minimum amount of overtime was worked to achieve this.

Very few complaints are received about the service apart from the occasional “bin missed”. Even here, on closer investigation it is often found that the yard door has been locked or the bin has been filled with rubble.

It is interesting to note that telephone complaints are sometimes received if the vehicle happens to be an hour later than usual. This is an indication of the regularity and the reliability of the service provided.

A regular collection of trade refuse from shops and certain other businesses has also been maintained and extra collections to dispose of unwanted furniture, pianos and other household effects, have been provided on request. Whilst a charge is levied for trade refuse collecting, all household refuse, including furniture, pianos, etc., is removed free of charge, even when this entails a separate, special collection.

Refuse Disposal.

The Massey-Ferguson tractor continues to keep the tip in a reasonable condition but due to the change in the quantity and type of refuse it is becoming increasingly difficult to adequately cover the tipping area. Covering material is still being dug out from old tipping surfaces and this is proving a useful asset.

During 1967 investigations and discussions took place in an attempt to find an alternative method of disposal of refuse. The White Ash site has now almost come to the end of its useful working life and it is imperative that the problem of disposing of the refuse should be considered with some urgency.

Municipal Bin Scheme.

1967 saw the introduction of a Municipal Dustbin Scheme.

Justifiable grumbles were received from the refuse collectors that they were having to empty all shapes and sizes of containers—"dolly-tubs", oil drums, mainly without handles; bins with jagged edges; bins with no lids or with lids that were difficult to remove; wooden boxes and so on.

Much time was spent in writing to owners without a great deal of success, requesting them to provide proper containers. After several meetings to discuss the implications of a Municipal Bin Scheme the Council agreed to accept responsibility for bins which were unsuitable or worn out.

As a further innovation plastic bins of $3\frac{1}{4}$ cu. ft. capacity were introduced with the scheme and these have no doubt proved a success. By the end of the first financial year 856 plastic bins were in use throughout the town. Whilst initially there was perhaps a little scepticism as to the value of these containers, particularly from elderly persons who felt that hot ashes would be a problem, after several months it was noticeable that people no longer asked for metal bins but for the plastic ones.

Out of the 856 issued only one bin has been lost by accidental firing and no complaints at all have been received regarding wear and tear. A "life" of 8 years has been placed on the bins and it is felt that with proper care this period could be considerably extended.

Apart from the increased capacity which has no doubt cut out the need for many of the additional cardboard boxes full of rubbish found by the side of many bins, the lightness of these bins has made what is still a heavy dirty job a little easier for the collectors.

Income comparisons (excluding salvage).

Refuse Collection.

1962/63	1966/67	1967/68
£63	£642	£580

Refuse Disposal.

£52	£463	£757
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Salvage.

The quantity of paper recovered for baling has again increased and the horizontal baling press purchased during 1966 has been a most useful acquisition.

There is no doubt that with the tipping space rapidly filling and with the close proximity of new housing developments to the tip, the more paper that can be salvaged and baled, the easier will be the job of controlling the tip.

No sorting of rags and metal is carried out amongst the refuse but articles easily salvaged are kept separate and make a small useful income.

Salvage Comparisons.

		1962/63	1966/67	1967/68
Paper:	Wt.	58 tons	166 tons	182½ tons
	Value	£340	£1312	£1293
Metal:	Wt.	1½ tons	8½ tons	10 tons
	Value	£35	£77	£90
Rags:	Wt.	1¼ tons	3½ tons	4¼ tons
	Value	£24	£57	£77
TOTAL VALUE:		£399	£1446	£1460

1st April, 1967, to 31st March, 1968.

The following are the costs of house refuse collection and disposal.

House Refuse Collection	1966-67	1967-68
	£	£
Wages of Workmen	7176	8342
National Insurance	596	715
Superannuation	260	300
Motor Transport	4984	5579
Garages	263	254
Brushes, Shovels, etc.	6	8
Protective Clothing	180	173
Tyres	112	126
Printing and Stationery	42	43
Insurances	—	59
Sundries	4	44
Austin Van	119	104
Municipal Bin Scheme	—	2005
Van—Contribution to Capital Fund	100	100
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	13841	17852
Less receipts ...	642	894
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£13199	£16958

House Refuse Disposal

	£	£
Wages	1761	1442
National Insurance	159	144
Superannuation	70	61
Rent of Tips	60	60
Maintenance of Tips	303	495
Rates	72	72
Tractor	2022	2513
Tractor—Repayment to Capital Fund	350	450
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4797	5237
Less Receipts ...	1909	2217
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£2888	£3020

Total House Refuse Collection & Disposal	£16087	£19978
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Cost Comparisons — Collection and Disposal

1965/66	1966/67	1967/68
£15,067	£16,087	£19,978

Street Cleansing and Gully Emptying.

A reasonable standard of street cleansing and gully emptying has been maintained during the year. The Gully emptying service has again suffered due to labour problems, consequently this service had to be neglected at times in order to maintain an efficient service for the collection and disposal of refuse.

Even so, the gullies in certain areas which are liable to become choked in rain are cleared regularly and a systematic round is maintained whenever possible.

The programme of weed control in the streets was also maintained and in addition, certain of the back-streets were treated. I am confident that the control programme carried out over the past 3 or 4 years has improved the appearance of the streets considerably.

Once again, the main problem in street cleansing has been the quantity of litter deposited in the streets. More litter bins have been provided but no apparent lessening in the quantity of litter has been noticed.

The following shows the mileage of the roads and streets which are cleansed by the Health Department:—

Blackburn Road (A679)	1.96 miles
Union Road and New Lane (B6231)	1.22 „
Stanhill and Stanhill Lane (B6234)	1.02 „
Class III Roads, No. 1 and 3	0.96 „
Public Streets	10.85 „
	<hr/>
	16.01 miles

